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Jessie B Sawyer







2 CHARLEY AND THE SPARROW.

CHARLEY'S PETS.

A Story

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.



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Charley's Pets.

THE SPARROWS.

ONE day little Charley saw a Sparrow on the window sill, and he tried to catch him; but the bird was too nimble for him and flew off to a tree.

These little birds build their nests with a great deal of care, sometimes in holes in walls, sometimes under the eaves of houses; and if they cannot find such a place, they build

them in trees, with a hole in the side just big enough for them to go in and out.

They often take a fancy to make them underneath a rook's nest, so that their neighbor's house may shelter their own from the wind and rain. The old birds are very fond of their young ones, and feed them with caterpillars, and sometimes with butterflies and other insects.

Soon after his attempt to catch the Sparrow, Charley was at play in the field and carried away a nest of young Sparrows which he found



CHARLEY WITH THE SPARROW'S NEST.

about a mile from the place where he lived. While he was walking along with them, he was very much surprised to see both the parents following him at a distance, and attentively watching every thing that he did. He thought that perhaps the old Sparrows would follow him home, and that he should have the pleasure of seeing them feed their little ones in their usual manner.

Just as he was entering the door of the house where he lived, he held up the nest, that the old birds might see it, and made his poor little prisoners cry out, as if they wished

for food. After showing it to his mother and sister, Charley put the nest with the young Sparrows in the corner of a wire cage, and then set it on the outside of a window.

He chose a place in the room whence he could see every thing that happened, and where the birds could not see him. Presently the poor little Sparrows cried for food; and soon both the parents came to the cage, with their bills full of small caterpillars, and after chirping as if they were talking to their young ones, they gave a small worm to each of them.

The affectionate birds continued to feed their young ones regularly every day, until the little creatures were quite fledged. Charley now took one of the strongest of them, and placed him on the outside of the cage, that he might see what the parents would do when they found that one of their little family was at liberty.

In a few minutes the two Sparrows came bringing food. As soon as they saw that one of their children had got out of prison, they fluttered about, chirped and seemed quite delighted; soon their voices

and motions showed that they were earnestly begging him to follow them, and to fly from his dangerous situation.

The poor little bird seemed to wish very much to obey them; but his feeble cries declared that he was afraid of trying to fly, as he had never done so before. Still the fond parents kept entreating him to come with them. They flew backwards and forwards, from the cage to the chimney-top which was near, as if to show him how easy it was to fly, and that the journey was but short. At last, away he flew, and



A SPARROW.

arrived safely at the top of the chimney. Then the old birds fluttered about, and seemed as glad as they had been when first they found him at liberty.

The next day Charley put another of the little Sparrows on the top of the cage, and the parents behaved in the same manner. He did the same with the other two which were left. I dare say that the old Sparrows were greatly rejoiced when they had recovered all their family. So Charley lost all his pets and began to look for some more.

CHARLEY'S BULFINCH.

AFTER losing his sparrows, Charley was wishing for another pet. He had an uncle who was a merchant in the city of Philadelphia. This uncle, Mr. Brown, was his mother's brother.

One day he came out to the country house where Charley's father lived, and brought Charley a nice little bird, a Bulfinch.

Mr. Brown had been on a voyage to England to buy goods to be sold



THE BULFINCH.

at his store in Philadelphia. While he was in England, he thought of his little nephew, Charley, and bought the bulfinch for him, and brought it in the ship with him all the way from England. Was not this very kind?

Charley was delighted with the bird, and asked his uncle a great many questions about him; for you know the Bulfinch does not live in a wild state in this country. All the Bulfinches we have here are brought over from England in cages.

In answer to Charley's questions

Mr. Brown gave him the following account of the bird.

The Bulfinch is a singular instance of the power of art on the song of birds. The natural note of the Bulfinch is low, and can only be heard at a short distance, but when well trained the bird whistles, or "pipes," as it is called, any melody which has been taught it, in a fine flute-like tone. A good piping Bulfinch sells at a very high price. The method of teaching, is to confine the birds in a dark room, and before the food is given them to play the air that they have to learn, on an in-

strument called a bird organ. The birds soon begin to imitate the notes, and by degrees the whole tune is learned. Some trainers substitute a small clarionet for the bird-organ.

When in captivity the Bulfinch is very sociable, and soon learns to know his owners, and to come to them if called.

The nest of this bird is made in thick bushes, or fir-trees. The eggs are of a pale greenish white, spotted with orange brown. The name of Bulfinch is given to it, on account of the large proportionate size of its head and neck. When in captivity

its plumage sometimes turns black, the result of feeding it too profusely with hemp seed.

Charley's bird had been taught to sing very well before Mr. Brown bought it; and I dare say it cost a good deal; but Mr. Brown never told Charley what it cost.





20 CHARLEY FEEDING HIS RABBITS



CHARLEY'S RABBITS.

Now Charley was not quite satisfied with having only one pet. He was very fond of his Bulfinch, and took very good care of him, giving him plenty of food, and putting fresh water in his cage every morning.

But he wanted to have some four legged pets.

So his mother bought him a pair of very fine tamè rabbits. These pretty creatures afforded him a great deal of amusement. He had a little rabbit hutch made for them ; and kept them in a yard just back of the garden, where they could run about.

Soon the two rabbits had a little family of young ones ; and these grew up and had families of their own ; so that the yard was pretty well stocked with these beautiful animals.



THE FOX.

One night, when the weather began to grow cold, a villain of a fox came into the yard and killed half a dozen of Charley's rabbits. This caused Charley a great deal of sorrow and alarm. He was afraid he should lose them all.

So Charley's father shut the rabbits up in the hutches and boxes the next night, and set a strong trap for the fox; and when Master Reynard came after some more rabbits he was caught and killed.

Then the rabbits were let loose again. The next week there came in the night a skunk, who killed two



THE SKUNK.

young rabbits. But the mother of these rabbits, although generally very quiet and peaceable, was so enraged at the skunk, that she attacked him very fiercely. This caused the skunk to send forth that dreadful odour, which causes this

animal to be so much detested. The next morning when the doors and windows were opened there came in such a dreadful smell that it made the folks quite sick.

So Mr. Carter, Charley's father, said that the rabbits must all be got rid of at any rate, because they attracted such offensive animals to the yard, which was very near the house.

Charley pleaded, very justly, that if the rabbits were sent away, the chickens, geese, turkeys and ducks would remain; and the foxes and skunks would come to the farm yard



CHARLEY'S RABBITS IN THE YARD. 27

all the same as if the rabbits were there.

Mr. Carter replied that the poultry were necessary on the farm; and must be kept; but the rabbits were useless playthings and must be sold.

So the next time Mr. Carter went to market at Philadelphia, he took the rabbits with him in a coop and sold them all. To console Charley for his loss he gave him all the money which he received for his rabbits. Charley's uncle Brown came out to the farm to pay a visit; he told Charley that he would take

the money and buy him a lot of fancy pigeons, tame pigeons, as many as he could obtain.

Charley was very grateful for this kind offer; and his father promised to have a pigeon house made for him.



CHARLEY'S PIGEONS.

MR. CARTER had a very pretty pigeon house built for Charley, and placed on a high post with a little ladder to be used in going up to look at the nests.

Then Charley was all ready for his pigeons and waited patiently for them to come. He did not have to wait long; for Mr. Brown was not only a very kind, but a very active friend of his little nephew

At last there came out from the

city, in a baggage-wagon, a whole lot of beautiful tame pigeons, Pouters, Tumblers, Fantails and a famous pair of Carrier Pigeons.

You should have seen Charley's delight at their arrival. He jumped about and clapped his hands with joy, and ran off to bring his mother and sister to look at the new-comers.

They were soon accustomed to the new pigeon house, and afforded Charley a great deal of pleasure, in taking care of them and watching the proceedings of the little colony.

They must have cost a good deal of money; and I have always

believed that Mr. Brown undertook the office of buying the pigeons in order to add considerably to Charley's little stock of money, so as to buy him the rarest pigeons he could find. But he never told any thing about it.

In the evening Mr. Brown came out to the farm and, in answer to Charley's inquiries, gave him an account of each kind of pigeons in the flock.

All pigeons, he said, have the power to puff out their crops, but the English Pouter is proud of filling his enormous crop so high,



THE ENGLISH POUTER.

standing so upright, that he often falls backward.

These birds are frequently from seventeen to eighteen inches in length; their bodies are thin, and tapering from the shoulders down-

ward ; their legs are strong, straight, and covered with soft, white feathers.

The front of the crop, the under parts of the body, and the tips of the wings, are usually white ; there is, also, generally, a white spot near the point of each wing : the remainder of the plumage is usually of one uniform color, yellow, red, blue or black, except round the white spot on the crop, where the feathers are of a brilliant green or purple.

These birds are difficult to rear, on account of the carelessness of the old ones : for this reason, their eggs are generally hatched, and the nest-



THE CARRIER PIGEON.

lings brought up under some other pigeon.

“Now tell me about the Carrier Pigeon?” said Charley.

“The Carrier,” continued Mr. Brown, “is the most celebrated of all the birds of the pigeon tribe. The accounts of which have been

given of its immense flights, in early times, might be deemed fabulous, if they were not only well authenticated, but supported by facts which frequently occur in our own days.

The Carrier Pigeon has been made use of for ages, to carry intelligence from one place to another. Although taken to a great distance, it returns home with astonishing velocity; and may thus be made the bearer of news, by means of a small letter fastened to its neck, leg, or elsewhere, from the persons who set it free, to those who are at its native place.

It will perform a journey of forty or fifty miles in as many minutes; and, when properly trained, will return to its home, with nearly equal speed, even from much greater distances. Numerous instances are recorded of these birds having been employed to convey important information from besieged towns to friends at a distance.

Hirtius and Brutus corresponded with each other, by the means of pigeons at the siege of Modena. Taurosthenes gave notice to his father at Ægina, of his victory at the Olympic games, on the day he

gained it, by a pigeon stained with purple.

A late writer states, that the Turks and Persians make a common practise of breeding this sort of pigeon in their seraglios, where there is one whose business it is to feed and train these birds for the use afterwards designed; which is done in this manner: when a young one flies very hard at home, and is come to its full strength, they carry it in a basket, or otherwise, about half a mile from home, and then turn it out; after this, they carry it a mile; then two, four, eight, ten or

twenty miles; till at length it returns from the farthest part of the kingdom.

This practice is of admirable use; for every bashaw has generally a basket full of these pigeons sent him from the grand seraglio; and, in case of any insurrection, or other emergent occasion, he braces a letter under the wings of a pigeon, whereby its flight is not in the least incommoded, and immediately turns it loose. But for fear of its being shot, or struck by a hawk, they generally dispatch five or six; so that, by this means, dispatches are



BALD PATED TUMBLER.

sent in a more safe and speedy manner than could possibly be otherwise contrived.”

“Now tell me about the Tumblers?” said Charley.

“The Tumbler,” said Mr. Brown, “is a small pigeon, with a thin neck, full breast, round head, and small

beak. The eyes of the better sort of Tumblers are usually of a fine pearly hue. The Almond, or Ermine Tumbler, is particularly conspicuous for the richness and variety of tints of its plumage. The head, tips of the wings, and tail, of the Baldpated Tumbler are white. There is another variety called Bearded Tumblers: the plumage of these is either blue or black, except on the upper part of the throat and cheeks, which are ornamented with a dash of white. The Tumblers are very excellent birds for flying: they possess a peculiarity, very remarkable



THE FANTAIL PIGEON.

when they are flying, of throwing themselves entirely over when in the air, and in an instant resuming their flight. They are very hardy birds, and may be classed among the prettiest of the pigeon tribe."

"I like the Fantails better," said Charley.

“The Fantails,” said Mr. Brown, “are particularly elegant birds; they have a frequent, peculiar, tremulous motion in the neck; from this circumstance they are sometimes called Shakers. The tail of these birds is spread out, and so raised, that it nearly touches the head. The Fantail has a full projecting breast, a thin neck, and a very small beak. It is generally supposed that these birds are always white; this is not the case, as there are Fantails of various colors. The white birds are, however, not only the most common, but, deservedly,



HELMET PIGEON.

the greatest favorites. There is a variety of the Fantail, called the Narrow-tailed Shakers; the necks of which are shorter and thicker, their backs longer, and their tails, as the name imports, narrower than the true Fantails."

“Now I want to hear about the ones with the crests on their heads,” said Charley

“Several varieties of the pigeon tribe are distinguished by a crest on their heads,” said Mr. Brown;—“others, by a ruff of inverted feathers about their necks; and a few, by a tuft on the breast.

The heads of the Helmet and the Nun are ornamented with a fine tuft of feathers, which, in the former, are supposed to bear some slight resemblance to a helmet; and in the latter, to a veil: hence, it is supposed their names are derived. The Nun

is a very pretty little Pigeon: the head, tail, and ends of the wings, are usually red, yellow, or black; the veil, or tuft, and the rest of the plumage, white: in this particular the Helmet resembles the Nun."

Charley was very much interested in this account of his pigeon pets; and he thanked Mr. Brown very warmly for the instructive account which he had given of them.





CHARLEY'S WALK.

ONE fine day in summer, Charley and his mother started for a walk in the field. It was a clear sunshiny morning, and they started in fine spirits. After taking the road for a short distance they entered a beautiful wood. Charley and his cousins often had picnic parties in it.

“ Oh! mamma,” cried Charley, “ look at that little squirrel up in the tree. Ain’t he a beauty. Here bun! bun! Mamma, what do squirrels

eat, I want to make him come down to me."

"They eat nuts, and green buds, my son! but this little fellow is too wild to be tempted by you."

"Oh! I wish I could catch him, and put him in a cage, I would make a pet of him!"

"That is a very cruel wish, Charley. The little squirrel would not like to live in a cage, he loves to frisk about in the warm sun."

"But in winter, mamma, I could take such good care of him then. He will freeze here."

"No, he will not freeze! When



A GREY SQUIRREL.

winter comes, Master Bunny will go into his hole in the trunk of some tree, he will coil his tail over his head, and sleep till warm weather wakes him."

"But, mamma, when there are no more nuts he will starve, I could feed him then."

“The squirrel takes care of that too. He lays up nuts in the autumn, for his winter use. So you see he is better off where he is.”

After a very pleasant walk in the woods, Charley and his mother came to the open fields again. There they found beautiful flowers, and Charley collected quite a number of beautiful stones to build houses with. They often stopped to look at some distant hill or tree. During one of these pauses in their walk, Charley stopped suddenly and cried,

“Oh, mamma, what is the name of that funny bird, there, on that



A KINGFISHER.

stump in the pond. He is stretching out his neck at us."

"That is a Kingfisher; He has probably just made his dinner off of some poor fish, and is taking a survey of the prospect. But we must walk on, for I have an errand in the village."

When they reached the village, Charley's attention was attracted by a large room in which there were a number of men, who were mixing something in large vats.

"Mamma," said he, what are those men doing?"

"It is a brewery, my son; we will



A BREWER.

walk in, and the man will probably allow us to see him at work."

They did so, and found the master very polite. Before they left he gave Charley a tumbler of spruce beer, which was very refreshing after their long walk.

Charley often spoke of the pleasant walk he had taken that morning, and did not forget any of the pretty things he saw then.





MR. BROWN INSTRUCTING CHARLEY.

CHARLEY'S FAWN.

CHARLEY's uncle Brown seemed to be as much interested in having the little boy's taste for pets gratified, as Charley himself was. Mr. Brown

was very fond of the study of natural history ; and he wished to excite the curiosity of Charley about the habits of animals and teach him to observe them closely.

One day he brought Charley a beautiful little fawn and presented it to him. Charley was very much delighted with this present and was very grateful to his uncle for his kindness.

Mr. Carter had a little pen made for him in the barn, where he was put every night. In the day time he ran about in the same yard where the rabbits had been kept.

When the long evenings came on, Mr. Brown visited the family very frequently, and took the opportunity to give Charley the information which he desired, respecting stags, does, and fawns.

The following is the substance of what he told Charley, and which he afterwards very kindly took the trouble to write out and give him.

Naturalists have divided the various animals with which they are acquainted into tribes or families, distinguished by some peculiarities of form. These tribes contain many separate species resembling the rest

of the family to which they belong in some respects, and, at the same time, differing widely in others. For instance, the majestic Elk of the American forests, and the delicate Roe-buck of Scotland, which is sometimes little more than two feet in height, are both numbered among the Stag or Deer family. The distinguishing mark of this tribe is in the antlers with which the head of the male animal is armed: the female, except among the Reindeer, is always without them.

There are but few things in the animal creation more curious than

the singular growth and succession of the horns of the Stag. When they begin to bud, the first appearance is like a slight swelling under the skin, and if you were to touch it, it would feel hot, from the number of little vessels ready to expand and form the antler. The swelling goes on increasing till it shoots forth in a horn, which assumes in each animal the shape peculiar to its kind. After a certain time the horn has arrived at its full size, and the skin which had stretched with its growth, and till now covered the antler, dies, becomes dry, and tears off in rags: this

last process is sometimes hastened by the animals themselves, who rub off the loose skin, and polish their horns against the trees. At length the horn, after having lasted for its usual time, becomes loose and drops off: the skin attached to it bleeds a little, but in four-and-twenty hours the place is healed, and the production of a new horn immediately commences.

Many of the Deer tribe have new horns every year, and the form is always the same in animals of the same sort, but those of one species differ widely from those of another.

It has been observed that the horns of the Deer which inhabit cold countries, are differently shaped from those of warmer climates. They are of a flattened or hand-like form, and appear intended to assist them in clearing away the snow from their food ; and it is a curious fact, that the colder the country is in which Deer are found, the better are their horns fitted for their use. Thus the Reindeer of America have much broader and flatter horns than those of Lapland, for the snows they have to contend with are much deeper. Besides these natural shovels, the

feet of these animals are broad, to answer the double purpose of giving them a firmer footing on the snow, and of scraping it away. How plainly in these particulars may we trace the wisdom and goodness of the Creator, and see an instance of the various methods by which different animals are made capable of providing for their wants, and fitted for the climate in which they live.

The Elk or Moose Deer of America, is the largest of this tribe, being higher than our horses. When seen wild in its native forests, and in all the glory of its full-grown antlers, it

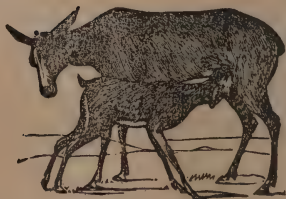


THE MOOSE DEER.

is a noble looking creature, though it does not equal some other species in beauty. Its horns are so large and heavy, that in order to support their weight, its neck is thick and short. The head is long and narrow,

the ears resemble those of an ass, and the neck is clothed with a heavy mane. Its motions are awkward, though its legs are long and well formed, for, owing to its standing higher before than behind, it cannot gallop, but shuffles or ambles along. As it moves, its joints make a crackling noise like those of the Reindeer; this noise was for some time thought to have been occasioned by the hoofs snapping against each other, till it was heard when the feet were not lifted from the ground, and the animal merely turned or leaned on one side.

In the winter the Elk lives chiefly among woody hills, seeking shelter during the snow-storms in thick coverts: its food then consists of the mosses which it finds under the snow, and the buds and barks of various trees, the branches of which it turns down by means of its horns with great dexterity, The Huron and Canadian hunters say, that when the snow has been one or two feet deep, they have seen a herd of these animals, led by an old male, shovel it back with their broad flat horns, and throw it over their heads; at the same time striking with their



DOE AND FAWN OF THE MOOSE DEER.

fore-feet to clear it away beneath them.

The Elk generally drops his horns in January or February, and they are fully grown again by the end of June. They are his weapons of defence against bears and wolves; his feet are also used in fighting, and it is said that his kick is so



INDIAN WITH SNOW SHOES.

powerful that it will split a small tree.

In North America, the Elk is

hunted in the early part of winter or toward the spring. The hunters wait till the snow is deep and begins to harden, so that they can run over it in snow-shoes; they then pursue the Elks, and drive them towards ravines, or wherever the snow is deeply drifted. The Huron Indians say that if this can be accomplished, the animal is soon entangled by floundering in the snow; but this chase requires great dexterity on the part of the hunters, for if they do not run instantly upon the deep snow themselves, and fire at the Elk, as he turns, he will rush



REINDEER.

back, and attack every one he finds in his way.

The Reindeer are also, as you have heard, inhabitants of cold coun-

tries; and in Lapland, where they abound, they form the wealth, and supply most of the comforts of the natives. Fitted by nature for subsisting in this barren country, these useful creatures feed on lichens, the buds of pine trees, and other arctic plants. Besides the various uses to which their skin, flesh, and horns are applied by the Laplander, they supply him with milk; and two of them yoked to a sledge will whirl him over the snow with such swiftness, that he can travel with them a hundred miles in a day. In common with the rest of the Deer tribe,



LAPLANDER IN HIS SLEDGE.

and many other animals, they have a nictitating or winking membrane, which covers nearly half the ball of the eye, and protects it from accidental injury while the creature is feeding. In the Reindeer, this mem-

brane is very moveable, and is particularly useful to it in storms of sleet and snow. This greatly contributes to the wonderful exactness with which they find their way through dangerous passes, and in a stormy night: and accidents very seldom happen, though the Laplander continually trusts his life to their sagacity.

Perhaps it is from observing the advantage of this curious membrane to the Reindeer, that the Esquimaux have invented their snow-eyes, which are a kind of spectacles made of very thin pieces of wood. They



LAPLANDER.

are so contrived as to protect the eye in the same way as the membrane, and shield it from the glare of the snow by leaving only a narrow slit to look through.

Reindeer are excellent swimmers; their broad feet are very useful in

the water, as well as on the snow, and, striking with great force, enable them to swim so rapidly in the strongest currents, and across the broadest rivers, that a well manned boat can hardly keep up with them.

Both in their wild and domestic state, the Reindeer live in large herds, and always follow implicitly the guidance of an old male. The herdsman is accustomed to direct him by a whistle, and he, with a look or a stamp of his foot, will make the rest obey with wonderful docility. In the summer they are greatly tormented by insects, es-



GAD FLY.

pecially by the gad-fly, which lays its eggs in their skin, and the hum of one of these on the wing is sufficient to put a whole herd to flight. The natives are therefore obliged to drive them in the day time to the higher parts of the mountains, whence they are brought home evening and morning to be milked, when a large fire of moss is lighted,



COMMON STAG AND HIND.

that the smoke may keep away their persecutors.

The proper or Common Stag, is

found in every European country except Lapland. In England they once abounded, but are now nearly extinct, though a few are still remaining in Gloustershire and Devon. The size of the horns vary according to age and circumstances. The Stags of Germany, when the country was well wooded, and they had consequently a greater abundance of food and repose, were sometimes found with an astonishing number of antlers or branches on their horns. The first King of Prussia killed one which had thirty-three antlers on each horn.



Hunting the Stag has been a favorite amusement in every age and country, and to excel in it requires great experience and attention. As cautious and vigilant as he is swift, the Stag, before he leaves the wood, carefully views the open country; and when he retires to his resting-place, that he may not be traced by his scent, he will pass the spot, return upon his track, and then spring off with a bound to his retreat.

The Hind is exceedingly attached to her young one, and carefully conceals it in close coverts. To pre-



STAG AND HOUND.

serve it she will expose herself to the fury of the hounds, and allow them to chase her, that they may be drawn away from its hiding-place. She will also defend it with great courage against the wild animals of the forest, and even the wolf is sometimes successfully resisted by her on these occasions.

The Fawn never leaves its dam during the summer; and in the winter the Stags and Hinds of all ages collect together in large herds which become more and more numerous as the season increases in severity. On the return of spring they separate, and while the Hinds are attending to their young, the Stags are likewise in concealment, shedding and regaining their horns.

The Canadian Stag or Wapiti is remarkable for the immense size of its horns, which expands so rapidly that at one period they grow more than an inch and a half in a day.



Some have been seen nearly five feet long, and these monstrous appendages are not without their use to the Canadian Stag; for when a small dead pine tree, or the bar of a fence, though it should be fifteen or sixteen feet long, lies in his way, he has been known to lift it up with his horns, and fairly tosses it over his back.

In the summer, the Wapiti often feeds on the plants that grow at the bottom of the water, in which he seeks refuge from the bites of flies. It was while feeding in this singular manner that some travellers ob-

tained a view of the animal. They were ascending a river in a canoe, and at a spot where it suddenly turned and opened into a small lake, a hunter, who was of the party, made a signal for silence, and pointed a-head of the canoe. The travellers looked, but saw nothing; some of them, however, understanding the meaning of the sign, seized their guns. The noise they made in their haste alarmed the Stag, which immediately lifted his head above the water: and, seeing the canoe, sprang towards the bank with his mouth full of weeds. The

men fired, but he reached the shore, and tossing his antlers, dashed into the thicket unhurt.

The Wapiti, however, are often shot while feeding in this way under water ; but then the canoe must be placed so as to glide silently down the current till it is close to them, for when they raise their heads from time to time to breathe, they take no notice of any object which does not appear to move.

There is a great variety of beautiful creatures of the Stag kind, which are peculiar to Asia, and some that are only found in America.

The Fallow Deer and Roebuck are found in Europe.

The Deer which are kept in English parks are Fallow Deer, and their beautifully brown sides are marked with white spots, and very swiftly they vanish among the trees when they take alarm at the near approach of man. It is said that a herd will sometimes divide, and that repeated battles will take place between the parties for the possession of some favorite spot in the park.

In appearance the Fallow Deer greatly resembles the Common Stag, but the form of the antlers is diffe-



FALLOW DEER.

rent, and they are smaller and more delicate: they may also be more easily tamed. When these Deer are thirsty, they plunge their noses very deep into the water while drinking, and remain in that situation a considerable time. This they could not do but for the assistance of two small breathing places, one at the inner corner of each eye, which the animal can open or shut at his pleasure. This curious provision of nature is probably very useful to the Deer when running, as throwing open these additional nostrils would enable it to breathe more freely, and



GROUP OF WILD DEER.

thus contribute to its escape when pursued.

The smallest of all the European Deer is the Roebuck, which is extremely graceful and active. Like most animals of this tribe, he has a

fine full eye; his limbs are remarkably pliant, and he leaps with great ease. From the strong scent which he leaves on the grass, he is peculiarly exposed to the pursuit of dogs but, often baffles them by the instinct with which he is endowed. When hunted, he will first dash forward, and immediately double, or run back on the same path, to mislead the hounds, and then by some long leaps gain a thicket where he will lie concealed till the chase has passed by.

Unlike other Stags, the Roebuck does not live in herds, but each



ROEBUCK.

family by itself. There are only a few now in England, but many remain in Scotland, and there they do some damage in the forests by biting off the young shoots and

buds of the trees, which they prefer to grass. They are so distrustful, that no art can tame them.

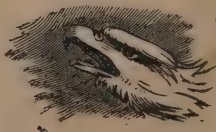
Some years ago, a Roebuck, pursued by hunters, fled from Scotland into Cumberland. It was chased through that county, and several parts of England, and at last took refuge among the woods on the banks of the Tyne, near Prudhoe Castle. Here it was often seen, and often hunted, but no dogs could be found equal to it in swiftness: it frequently swam across the river, and by speed or artifice escaped the pursuers.

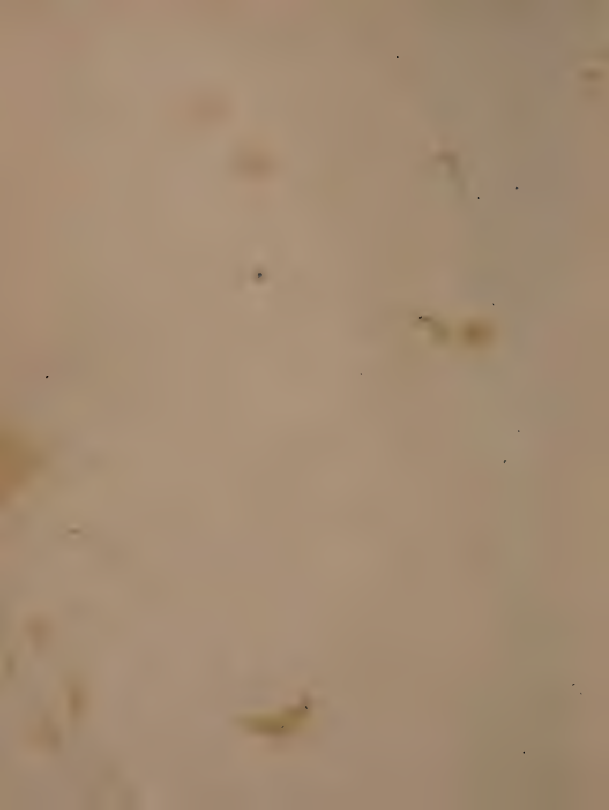
At length in a severe winter, the river was frozen, and the Roebuck, being chased, crossed it on the ice; it was much strained by its violent exertions, and taken alive. For some weeks it was kept in the house, but when it was set at liberty, it soon came to an untimely end, for all its cunning and skill seemed to have forsaken it; it appeared to have forgotten its old haunts, and after running for some time, lay down in a brook, where it was killed by the dogs.

Here ended Mr. Brown's account of the different kinds of deer.

Charley thanked his uncle for his kindness, and said he should take a great deal more intrest in his pet fawn, now that he knew all about the large family to which he belonged. As Charley's interest in his studies increased he became less interested in his pets ; and finally gave them all away, at the time he commenced forming his Museum.

I will tell you about "CHARLEY'S MUSEUM" in another little book.







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